

# Dry Drayton C of E (C) Primary School

## Newsletter – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024



*“I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.” Philippians 1:9*

Dear parents and carers,

Well done to the Year 6 children who have led Celebration Collective Worship for the past two weeks. It takes a lot of courage to stand up in front of the whole school plus many parents and grandparents and to speak with confidence as they lead us through the various reasons for celebrating. They have to support younger children coming to the front of the hall to share their achievement over the week and this is carried out with great kindness and respect. It is a joy to see. Thank you to all of the Year 6 leadership team; to Laura and Chris for last week and James and Ian for today.

School and Eco Councils have been involved with discussions concerning safety outside the school gates. Please do complete the Google form sent earlier in the week if you have concerns about car movements or parking, and pedestrians outside of the school gates and if you have any solutions to the problem. There are also options for those who do not perceive there to be any issues with cars or pedestrians. School and Eco Councils are running Class Council to gather the children’s opinions too.

Link to the survey – [Park Street Safer Streets Survey](#)

Most children enjoy playing on the field at lunch times but to keep the school clean, they are only able to do this if they are wearing wellies or a spare pair of trainers plus their waterproof trousers. All children need a spare pair of shoes in school on PE days, their school shoes are fine for this purpose. Please ensure that you child has the correct clothing for everyday in school. Thank you. Please speak to the school office if you would like support to provide this equipment.

Don’t forget to request your seats for the Nativity on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 9:15 am (a sign-up sheet is just inside the school reception area) and that our last celebration Collective Worship is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. We will be holding our Christingle Service in the church at 9:10am on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December and you and your family are all warmly invited. We love to include all siblings when we come together as a school, but ask that you kindly leave if your little one becomes too vocal, thank you.

The Year 3 4 fundraising committee are having a stall at the Little Owl Fair this Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and, together with Little Owls, would love to see you there between 3 and 5 pm.  
Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,  
Sonia Hegan



Small school.



Big hearts.



Big ambitions.



### St Julian class

**Reception** - We have now completed learning all of the single letter phonemes and we have begun our work on the digraphs sh, ch, th, ng, nk. We have been learning the mantra 'two letters, one sound' and reminding the children that /sh/ is said like 'sh shell' not 's snake' and 'h helicopter' separately (this is really hard to explain written down but I hope you understand what I'm trying to say!). Please support your child with learning the sounds on their phonics sheets and by reading 5 times a week.

In Maths, the children have had experience of subitising small quantities and they have used their skills to identify the numbers within 5. This is supporting the children to compose and flexibly de-compose numbers mentally, so they will become more fluent in their knowledge of number bonds and they can use these to become efficient when calculating in KS1 and KS2. The early stages of maths are vital to fluency as they learn more complex skills as they move through the school.

We have been rehearsing our Nativity and they are doing a fantastic job learning the songs, lines and staging. Don't forget to sign up with the school office for tickets.

Mrs Spink

**Year 1 and 2-** This term is flying by and lots of exciting and interesting lessons have been happening. The Nativity rehearsals are in full flow, with the children singing and acting with full gusto. We cannot wait to show you all!

In SPAG Mrs Scarrow's group have started learning the different terminology for different pieces of punctuation such as verbs, nouns (common and proper) and adjectives. Mrs Spink's group have been working hard on their split digraphs. In PSHE the children have been learning about compliments and how compliments are a nice thing to give people. The children wrote some lovely compliments about each other during their enhanced provision time.

December brings lots of excitement, joy and tiredness! We have many lovely Christmas activities planned within our enhanced provision and on special days (see school calendar) however within the month of December we also have lots of hard work to get done, such as end of term assessments, maths units, writing units alongside all the other foundation subjects.

Please could you support us at home by making sure your child is reading 5 times a week to you and getting a good night's sleep!

Mrs Scarrow.



**St Etheldreda class** are continuing to learn about non-fiction explanation texts in English and are filling their writing toolbox with all the skills and techniques needed ready to write their own next week. They are all making super progress in terms of their reading fluency and are really honing their skills when reading aloud to an audience.

In maths, we are now focussing on multiplication and division. This work is in addition to the quick recall work covered on Wednesdays and will include aspects of reasoning and multiplication and division of three digit numbers. Quick recall of the times tables will really help in these lessons, so please do keep on helping your child practise these.

Several of the children are keen to write speeches for the Public Speaking competition, I'm looking forward to hearing their ideas and listening to their speeches.

As we enter December, we will be enjoying lots of festive fun, but also have lots more to cover in terms of our learning and end of term assessments. Please help your child pace themselves with plenty of quiet time and sleep as well as excitement.

Thank you for all your ongoing support.  
Miss Hampton



**St Edmund class** have had a terrific week working hard grappling with more complex fraction problems. They have also been very focused on their River projects, writing excellent, expanded sentences full of geographical terms and fascinating facts. This has resulted in lots of discussions and yet more research as we are all keen to extend our knowledge! Their artwork created messy hands and tables but wonderful river pictures using a choice of ten different chalk pastel techniques.

With no Mrs Scott in school this week, I have been working with them and they have been a pleasure to teach, well done to all. We all hope Mrs Scott is feeling much better.  
Mrs Hegan

### **Astrophysicist visit**

On Monday 18th November, the children enjoyed their Collective Worship hosted by the Astrophysicist Matt Bothwell! They asked an impressive array of scientific questions about a range of topics including black holes, the



relative meaning of 'light speed' and the Big Bang Theory. What a budding group of scientists! St Edmunds continued their Q&A session in the classroom with a presentation and book signing from Matt. We will order a copy of the book for our library for the children to enjoy.



### **Year 3/4 Boys Football Development Competition**



A group of year 3 and 4 boys travelled to Swavesey Village College today to take part in the Football Development Competition.

They played four games, and scored an amazing eleven goals overall, only conceding one. A great afternoon of sport, well done!

## St Julian Class nativity

The St Julian Class nativity will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am (just the one performance this year). The children and staff have all been busy preparing the production and are looking forward to sharing the show with you. Audience places are initially limited to two per family – please sign up in the school office to let us know that you are coming by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. If you would like any additional places let us know and we will confirm if there is space on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

## Fundraising committee reminders

### Little Owl Christmas Fair

The fundraising committee are holding a stall at the Little Owl Christmas Fair tomorrow, 3pm-5pm. We will be raising funds for [Arthur Rank Hospice](#). Come and see us for Christmas colouring and collage activities. Please do support this important local charity that provides help and support to patients and their families at a difficult time.



### Rudolph Ramble Fundraiser Collective Worship

Next Tuesday we will be welcoming Sarah Clayton to Collective Worship to tell us more about the work of Arthur Rank Hospice and the Rudolph Ramble Fundraiser.

We will be taking part in the Rudolph Ramble on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December (the same day as our tasty Christmas lunch) to fundraise for this important cause, and after school we will be selling cake, hot chocolate and crafts. Children can wear Rudolph antlers, which will be provided by Arthur Rank. We have a [JustGiving page](#) where you can make donations. We hope we raise lots of money.

If you have any questions ask the fundraising committee (Darya, Emma, Lily, Lola, Luna and Millie).

## School and Village Association Update - Dry Drayton Advent Trail Grand Launch

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 5pm in the Village Hall

All are welcome to attend the grand launch of the second annual Dry Drayton Advent Trail in the Dry Drayton Village Hall on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December. From 5pm we'll serve mulled wine and mince pies, and then Santa himself will lead us on a walking tour of the village to see the beautifully decorated windows throughout the village. Entry to the launch is £5, which also gets you a map of the trail. All proceeds will go to the Cambridge City food bank.



## Forest School Autumn 2024



Forest School sessions take place every week on the following days. Please ensure that your child always has their Forest School Gear at school which is a pair of wellies plus a waterproof jacket and trousers (or an all in one). Remember, it's never the wrong weather, it's the wrong clothes, so please don't let your child miss out. We have some second-hand wellies in school if you need to borrow them, so do ask in the office. We are happy to have any

outgrown waterproofs for our spares. PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHES AND SHOES.

**Infants – Mondays** (No need to wear PE kit. School uniform, plus Forest School gear will be fine.)

**KS2 – Tuesdays** This year KS2 will have either half a term of Forest School or of DT, they will then swap for the following half term.

In addition to these, each year group will have a whole afternoon of Forest School on the following **Wednesdays**. Please send your child to school in PE kit including their PE sweatshirt (and not a hoodie).

Date	Year Group
Wednesday 4th December	No forest school
Wednesday 11th December	Year 2
Wednesday 18th December	Reception and Year 1


### Church update

Everyone is welcome to join us for Advent and Christmas services and events at Dry Drayton Church:



St Peter and St Paul's Dry Drayton  
*A small church with a big heart*

Sunday 1st December, 5.30pm,  
Advent Evensong

Friday 6th December, 7.00pm,  
Advent Concert (details here )

Wednesday 18th December, 6.00pm,  
Carol Service

Tuesday 24th December, 3.00pm,  
Crib Service

Tuesday 24th December, 11.15pm,  
Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th  
December, 10.00am, Christmas Holy  
Communion

**IN DULCI JUBILO**

Music for  
**Advent & Christmas**  
by Ennylyn Wallen, Benjamin Britten and others,  
including a new carol by Ben Parrish

**Peterhouse Chapel Choir**  
directed by Simon Jackson

7 pm, Friday 6 December  
The Church of St Peter and St Paul  
Dry Drayton  
CB23 8BZ

Suggested Donations (on the door)  
£10, £5 (Children)  
Refreshments included



### Online safety tip of the week: laptops

How to start a conversation with your child about using a laptop safely: Why do you want to get a laptop?

Whilst deciding if it is time for your child to have their first laptop can be a great opportunity to find out what your child expects to use it for. This could be for connecting with friends, playing games, for doing their homework and research.

Find more online safety tips here: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

## Celebration Collective Worship

**22<sup>nd</sup> November**

Headteacher Awards were awarded to Halle, Antonio, and Jack.

Charlie, Ethan, Ivy and James were chosen to sit on the **golden table** next week with a friend of their choosing.



Well done to Alice B, Annabel, Chris, Jamie and Lola for achieving their **Bronze** certificate for 100 house points, and to Michael for achieving his **Silver** certificate for 200 house point.





**29<sup>th</sup> November**

Headteacher Awards were awarded to Isabella, Ruby and Fergal.

Edward, Isabella, Laura and Buddy were chosen to sit on the **golden table** next week with a friend of their choosing.

Well done to Grace, Robin, Max, Isla, Emma and Millie for achieving their **Bronze** certificate for 100 house points.

<b>House Points</b>			
			
<b>Totals for last week</b>			
Ennis - 148	Farah - 144	Simmonds - 102	Wiggins - 120
<b>Totals for this week</b>			
Ennis - 185	Farah - 173	Simmonds - 138	Wiggins - 196
<b>Totals for the year so far</b>			
Ennis - 1,381	Farah - 1,387	Simmonds - 1,193	Wiggins - 1,628

### Proposed Diary Dates - New dates added in red.

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Small Schools Cross Country Christmas Decoration Afternoon – parent volunteers welcome
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	St Julian's Nativity 9:15am – only one performance this year!
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Final Celebration Collective Worship 9am
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch and wear a festive top if you wish Sponsored Rudolph Ramble followed by afterschool cake and crafts sale
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle, 9am in church – all welcome
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term – Cinderella Panto at the Cambridge Arts Theatre (AM) Party food lunch (book as normal)
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Children return to school</b>
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>S&amp;VA AGM in the school hall 7pm – all parents welcome</b>

*Don't forget full term dates, curriculum information, photo gallery and lots more can be found on our website:  
[www.drydraytonprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.drydraytonprimaryschool.co.uk)*